

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SY-04 SCCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 USSS-00 DRC-01 /127 W

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P R 242011Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6185

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2938

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINR, AR, US

SUBJ: ARGENTINA - TERRORISM

1. BRITISH EMBASSY COMMERCIAL MINISTER MAYNARD CALLED ON DCM APR 24. HE EXPLAINED HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY MATTERS AT HIS EMBASSY AND WAS CALLING FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SUBJECT. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT A TOP US SECURITY OFFICIAL WAS IN TOWN AND WONDERED IF DCM HAD ANY COMMENT ON PURPOSE OF VISIT. DCM REPLIED THAT AS RESULT OF LAUN KIDNAPPING AND OUR ASSESSMENT THAT TERRORISTS, HAVING OBTAINED LARGE SUMS FROM FOREIGN INDUSTRIALISTS, WOULD NOW FIND USG OFFICIALS A TEMPTING TARGET FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, WE WERE IN PROCESS OF TAKING HARD LOOK AT OUR PROTECTIVE MEASURES. MAYNARD SAID HIS EMBASSY HAD REACHED SIMILAR CONCLUSION ON SHIFT OF TERRORIST TARGETS AND CONSIDERED RISK TO BRITISH OFFICIALS TO BE NOT MUCH BELOW THAT OF AMERICANS.

2. BRITISH HAVE AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE WITHDRAWN BRITISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE FROM CORDOBA, AND GIVEN UNSETTLED CONDITIONS IN THAT PROVINCE HAVE FORBIDDEN OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE TRAVEL THERE BY BRITISH PERSONNEL WITHOUT PERMISSION.

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3. MAYNARD SAID THAT BRITISH EMBASSY HAD RECENTLY
DRAWN UP CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR REDUCTION OF ITS STAFF
(NOW NUMBERING ABOUT FORTY BRITISH NATIONALS) TO HALF
THE SIZE. PLAN WOULD GO INTO EFFECT FOLLOWING FIRST
TERRORIST ACT AGAINST ANY FOREIGN OFFICIAL IN BUENOS
AIRES REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY.

4. DCM TOLD MAYNARD THAT US EMBASSY WAS IN PROCESS
OF STUDYING MEANS OF REDUCING VULNERABILITY OF OUR
STAFF AND THAT AMONG ACTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS
REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF OFFICIAL AMERICANS AT POST.
HILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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